REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action of November 22, 2005, the Applicant submits this Reply. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in this application, of which claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are independent.

Amendment to the Specification

The Abstract has been amended to make it less than 150 words.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 4 and 10 were objected to because the Examiner stated that it was not clear whether "the object" referred to "each object" or "corresponding object." The claims have been amended to provide clarification, by indicating that the property definitions are added to the objects in the metadata schema in the data file (noting that the data file represents the data in the second implemenation). It is respectfully submitted that these amendments and arguments overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-12, of which claims 1, 4, 7 and 10, are independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of U.S. Patent 6,199,130 ("Nguyen"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to *Nguyen*, a data format conversion unit 184 (Fig. 1b) "performs the conversion process by creating a target instance that corresponds to the stored instance, but in which the data is stored in the target format." *Nguyen*, Col. 10, lines 35-38. To perform this process, *Nguyen* teaches using a schema version table. See Col. 8 and Figs. 3b and 4b (element 316).

The Final Office Action asserts, at page 6, lines 6-9 and 11 that the claimed "means for redirecting access is inherent" in *Nguyen* "since the motivation of Nguyen is to . . . allow software to access data even when the format of the data is based on a different schema version than the schema version supported and expected by the software." The Final Office Action also

asserts, at page 6, lines 12-14, that the claimed "evolved property definition" also in inherent in *Nguyen*. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claims as amended are distinguished from *Nguyen*, at least by reciting that "evolved property definitions" (claims 1 and 7) or "synthesized property definitions" are "added as a property of the object *in the metadata schema in the data file.*" See this application at page 7, lines 1-7. Note that the independent claims as amended recite that "the data stored using the second implementation includes a data file comprising data describing media essence, data describing metadata objects that reference the media essence and data describing the second implementation of the metatdata schema." The property definitions that are registered by the first application are property definitions that are added to the metadata schema in the data file. *Nguyen* neither teaches nor suggests making any modifications to a metadata schema in the data file that contains the data in the second application that is being used by the first application.

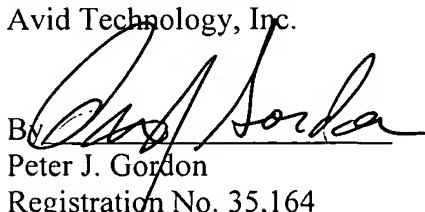Accordingly, the rejection is traversed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to **Deposit Account No. 50-0876**.

Respectfully submitted,
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May 22, 2006

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